



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 06/2022)**

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** Culvert Lining Installation

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 10-TUO-49

**PM/PM:** VAR

**EA:** 10-1M040

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

**Project Description**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes culvert lining installation at three (3) locations on State Route 49 at various postmile in Tuolumne County. Construction will occur on both paved and unpaved surfaces within the Caltrans right of way. General scope of work is listed in the Continuation Sheet. The purpose of the project is to address the flow and perennial stormwater runoff ponding issues. The project is needed to improve the stormwater flow pattern, which will extend the service life of State Route 49 at this location.

**Caltrans CEQA Determination** (Check one)

- Not Applicable** – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency
- Not Applicable** – Caltrans has prepared an IS or EIR under CEQA

Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the project is:

- Exempt by Statute.** (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)
- Categorically Exempt. Class 1.** (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)
  - No exceptions apply that would bar the use of a categorical exemption (PRC 21084 and 14 CCR 15300.2). See the [SER Chapter 34](#) for exceptions.
- Covered by the Common Sense Exemption.** This project does not fall within an exempt class, but it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR 15061[b][3].)

**Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief**

Elizabeth Hummel		12/27/2023
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

Jason Miller		12/27/2023
Print Name (Bairong Yu Acting for Jason Miller)	Signature	Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

[X] Not Applicable

Caltrans has determined that this project has no significant impacts on the environment as defined by NEPA, and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in 23 CFR 771.117(b). See SER Chapter 30 for unusual circumstances. As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under NEPA and is included under the following:

[ ] 23 USC 326: Caltrans has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to 23 USC 326 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated April 18, 2022, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- [ ] 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(Enter activity number)
[ ] 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(Enter activity number)
[ ] Activity Enter activity number listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and Caltrans

[ ] 23 USC 327: Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under 23 USC 327. The environmental review, consultation, and any other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Caltrans pursuant to 23 USC 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated May 27, 2022, and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 9/13/2023

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet if needed (i.e., not necessary if included on an attached ECR). Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., additional studies and design conditions).



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### **Continuation sheet:**

The scope of work at each location will include the following:

- Location 1 (TUO- 49-PM 17.21) — Install 18” Culvert Barrel Lining
- Location 2 (TUO-49-PM 17.30) — Install 24” Culvert Barrel Lining
- Location 3 (TUO-49-PM 17.38) — Install 24” Culvert Barrel Lining and regrade inlet channel.

### **General:**

- Environmental reevaluation will be required if the scope of the project changes to include additional areas or activities, or if previously unknown cultural or other sensitive resources are discovered. Contact the Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered.

### **Cultural:**

- If cultural materials are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:
  1. Stop all work within a 60-foot radius of discovery
  2. Protect the discovery area
  3. Notify the Engineer
  4. The Department Investigates.
    - a. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archaeologist to assess the significance of the find. Do not resume work within the discovery area until authorized.
- If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County coroner contacted. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At the same time the landowner will work with the MLD on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

### **Biology:**

The following avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented.

- If construction will occur during migratory bird season (February 1 – September 30), a pre-construction bird survey will be required. If an active bird nest is observed, a 100-foot buffer will be established around the nest until the young have fledged. Caltrans Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A will be added to the



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construction contract to request a 300-foot buffer be established around any active hawk nest that is observed. A 600-foot buffer would be established for Swainson's hawk. Contractors must submit a request to the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office to have a qualified Caltrans biologist conduct a nesting bird survey within 14 days prior to the start of any construction related activities. Construction activities will not begin until authorized. If approved, construction related activities must commence within 14 days of a location's nesting bird survey completion. If the contractors fail to commence the construction related activities within 14 days, or if there is a halt to the activities with a delay of more than 14 days, another nesting bird survey must be performed by the Caltrans qualified biologist. Construction cannot recommence until authorized.

No Permits Required